Lonnie Hudkins
5 Chestnut St.,
Franklinville, NY 14737

12/14/92

Dear Lonnie,

and May and Lonnie Jr. and all those aloes, of which one reminds us of you often,

I'm sorry that for more than a year it has been necessary for me to be abed by the time you are at work. I think I told you I have sleep apnea, that it gets me up early, and that going to bed early lets me get an hour more sleep that on good nights is about of five hours with four or five interruptions. While this leads to a strange life if is not without an advantage - those very early hours, sometimes beginning about midnight, are never interrupted by a ringing phone or anything external. So, I've just completed the manuscript of a very large book a friend is retyping when he can. And I've also just seen a reference to you as a Houston journalist at the time Dick Russell interviewed you in Baltimore.

His is another of the nutty books theorizing a conspiracy and a solution. He begins with a single source and never has a second one, I'm sure.

I've decided to return to some writing about Oswald I laid aside years ago because like the monster I've just finished drafting (no agent, no publisher, but at least a record for history) I can do it with minimum need to use my files in the basement.

I'm sorry you did not respond when I asked you about the number other than the FBI one that was made up. I have the number or I'd not be asking you. I'd like to know a little more about it if that is possible. It is not consistent with FBI numbers but is consistent with the CIA's. You gave it so someone else in early 1964.

If you have a copy of your Houston Post story, I think it was the first, I'd appreciate a copy. Also if you have them of Anyesworth's and Feldman's in The Nation. I think I may begin the book with that "dirty rumor," Rankin's words to the Commission that I published almost two decades ago.

If you have no objection I'll also use what you told me, that you, Aynesworth and Alexander made that number up to booby-trap the FBI you suspected had you under surveillance and that in about a half hour it visited one or more of you. Nothing like that, by the way, in the Dallas FBI records I got, supposed to be all of them.

We hope you are all OK, well and happy. We are about as good as we can expect to be save that Lil lost her voice about 5-6 weeks ago and the doctors have found no cause. It happened often in the past but never lasted this long.

If your schedule has changed and there is any night you get in earlier, let me know and I'll use your number that I've kept at hand on the chance of using it, 800-777-8680.

Our best to you all and our hopes for a fine holiday seasons and a good year ahead!

Hal